



Fact Sheet

South Carolina's Business RECYCLING Assistance Program


WasteWise


What is WasteWise?

WasteWise is a free, voluntary U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) program in which organizations eliminate costly solid waste, benefitting their bottom line and the environment. WasteWise is a flexible program that allows partners to design their own solid waste reduction programs tailored to their needs.

How to Be WasteWise

To be WasteWise, partners join the program for a three-year period and undertake the following activities:

 **Commit to reducing waste.** WasteWise partners examine their operating and purchasing practices to identify cost-effective opportunities for waste reduction.

 **Establish waste reduction goals.** WasteWise partners identify practical and measurable goals based on their specific needs. Within six months of joining, partners set three-year goals in each of the complementary program areas: waste prevention; recycling collection; and buying or manufacturing products with recycled content.

 **Track progress.** Partners monitor their progress and annually update U.S. EPA on their accomplishments. WasteWise partners find this process to be valuable and often use this information to communicate results to employees, managers and stockholders.

Who can join WasteWise?

Any organization can join. Large and small businesses from any industry sector are welcome to participate. Institutions, such as hospitals and universities, non-profits, and other organizations, as well as state, local and tribal governments also are eligible to participate in the program.

Why should an organization join WasteWise?

Waste reduction makes good business sense because it can save your organization money through reduced purchasing and waste disposal costs. WasteWise provides free technical assistance to help you develop, implement and measure your waste reduction activities.

WasteWise offers publicity to organizations that are successful in reducing waste through U.S. EPA publications, case studies and national and regional events. These events also provide networking opportunities for organizations to share waste reduction ideas and success stories.



Preserving Resources, Preventing Waste

How do you join WasteWise?


Complete the registration form, which can be filled out on-line or downloaded from the WasteWise Web site, **www.epa.gov/wastewise**. A registration form also can be obtained by calling the WasteWise toll-free number, **1-800-EPA-WISE**.

How do you start a program?


There are four basic steps to getting a program started.

 First, obtain **management support** and involvement.

 Second, establish a **waste reduction team** and select a leader.

 Third, **set goals** for your organization, which may involve conducting a **waste assessment**. The waste assessment looks at the waste currently generated. It provides a baseline for future data and can help identify potential waste reduction

options. It is suggested that a **measurement/tracking system** be put into place so that progress toward your waste reduction goals can be easily tracked.

 Fourth, **educate your employees** about your WasteWise goals. Publicize them through signs or posters, presentations at meetings, contests, internal newsletters and company e-mail.


DHEC is a WasteWise partner, endorser.


The S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control is a partner and endorser of the U.S. EPA's WasteWise program.


WasteWise is a free, voluntary partnership program that helps organizations prevent waste, recycle and buy recycled or manufacture recycled products, thus benefiting their bottom line and the environment. The program is flexible and allows partners to design their own plans tailored to their needs.

Established in 1994, WasteWise now has more than 1,100 partners, including local, state and tribal governments, non-profit organizations, hospitals, universities and multi-national corporations.

WasteWise partners set waste prevention, recycling and buying recycled goals. DHEC's waste reduction goals include:

 Reducing paper usage through promoting use of e-mail and electronic file storage and using double-sided copies.

 Promoting energy conservation by turning off lights and computers when not in use.

 Publicizing waste prevention activities through DHEC's newsletter and Web site, South Carolina Recycles Magazine, and other appropriate communication tools.

As a WasteWise endorser, DHEC encourages other businesses to join WasteWise to learn how reducing solid waste makes good business sense. Endorsers not only demonstrate their leadership in the environmental arena, but they also help businesses achieve substantial cost savings. And they play a pivotal role in conserving natural resources and preventing pollution.

As an endorser, DHEC recruits other organizations and businesses to become WasteWise members, providing promotional and technical information about waste reduction and recycling. Any organization or business in South Carolina can join the WasteWise program including schools, manufacturers, government, commercial and retail businesses.

EPA names DHEC WasteWise Endorser of the Year

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has recognized the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control as WasteWise Endorser of the Year. DHEC was one of 54 organizations recognized for extraordinary efforts to reduce waste.

EPA praised DHEC's comprehensive awareness campaign to promote WasteWise and cited its outstanding efforts to distribute information to numerous target audiences, including other state agencies, counties and municipalities, schools and universities, and businesses throughout the state. As part of its endorser activities, DHEC spread the word about WasteWise through printed materials, visual displays, an extensive Web site (www.scdhec.net/eqc/lwm/recycle/html/wastewise.html), and on-site visits with individual organizations.

"We promote WasteWise because it is a one-stop program that is simple to do yet provides in-depth information, support, examples to follow and the necessary tools for businesses to set and meet waste reduction goals," said William W. Culler, division director of DHEC's Office of Solid Waste Reduction and Recycling, which oversees the WasteWise program for the agency. "WasteWise enhances and supports our mission of promoting public health and protecting the environment. It's a perfect fit."

"Businesses need to remember that they not only help prevent pollution and conserve resources by reducing the amount of waste they generate and recycling," Culler added, "they can also save money by reducing their solid waste disposal costs."